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## **JOINT COUNCIL ON YOUTH**

**36<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**Budapest, 27-29 March 2017**  
European Youth Centre

**Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States  
on young people's access to rights**

**Process for the dissemination and implementation of the Recommendation:**

**Draft roadmap 2017-2019**

**As approved by the Joint Council on Youth**

## Introduction

Adopted on 28 September 2016, [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2016\)7](#) aims to "improve young people's access to rights rather than addressing the specific rights themselves. It focuses on improving access by taking steps to promote awareness of the rights that young people should be able to enjoy and what they can do if their rights are violated, and by removing legal, political and social barriers [...]" (cf. Appendix, paragraph 1).

The text also recommends that "this Recommendation, including its appendix, is translated and disseminated among competent authorities and stakeholders, with a view to raising awareness of the need to promote and protect young people's access to their rights".

## Follow-up of the implementation of the Recommendation

At its 35th meeting (Strasbourg, 17-19 October 2016), the Joint Council on Youth:

- "encouraged national authorities to translate and disseminate the Recommendation in their national, regional and minority languages<sup>1</sup> as soon as possible;
- asked the Joint Bureaux to develop a road map for 2017-2019 for the dissemination and implementation of the Recommendation and present it for approval to its 36<sup>th</sup> meeting, taking into account the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, the implementation plan for Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights and relevant reports of the Commissioner for Human Rights."

The roadmap proposed below is based on the combined work and co-operation between public authorities in member States, youth organisations and the Council of Europe (Youth Department).

If confirmed, a seminar to be organised in 2017 on the dissemination and implementation of the Recommendation could contribute to defining more precisely the measures described below.

## **Dissemination and implementation: roadmap 2017-2019**

### *1. Member States*

- 1.1 Translate, publish and disseminate the text of the Recommendation and its user-friendly version in their national, regional and minority languages<sup>1</sup>;
- 1.2 Prepare strategies, plans or measures to disseminate and apply measures of the Recommendation, notably in co-operation with youth organisations, local authorities and youth services, including youth centres;
- 1.3 Support research and evidence-finding about youth groups facing discriminatory practices on the grounds explicitly outlined by Article 14 of the European Convention of Human Rights or any other form identified in the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as obstacles to the right of young people to assemble peacefully and to freely form, join and be active in associations and trade unions;
- 1.4 Promote the sharing of practices and exchange of experiences among partners and stakeholders at both national and European levels.

### *2. Youth organisations*

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<sup>1</sup> For member States having signed and ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

- 2.1 Advocate for rights-based approaches in youth policy;
  - 2.2 Support the dissemination of the Recommendation among young people;
  - 2.3 Apply rights-based approaches to issues and challenges affecting young people, notably through study sessions in the European Youth Centres and activities supported by the European Youth Foundation;
  - 2.4 Implement capacity-building and awareness-raising activities with young people about citizenship and human rights education;
  - 2.5 Promote the sharing of practices and exchange of experiences among partners and stakeholders at both national and European levels;
  - 2.6 Make sure that youth organisations can monitor and advocate for an active implementation, possibly through the format of shadow reports.
3. *Council of Europe (Youth Department)*
- 3.1 Develops and publishes a youth and user-friendly version of the Recommendation (timeline: 2017);
  - 3.2 Develops guidelines to implement the Recommendation, identifying in particular which rights are concretely at stake and taking into account the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, the guide to Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights ("Taking it seriously") and relevant reports of the Commissioner for Human Rights (timeline: 2018-2019), as well as the indicators developed to measure progress in child and youth participation;
  - 3.3 Includes the Recommendation and its principles in other relevant areas of its work (youth policy development, youth policy advice, etc.) as relevant (timeline: 2017-2019);
  - 3.4 Ensures inter-institutional co-operation in the promotion of this Recommendation.

### **Reviewing: from 2021 onwards**

In the Recommendation, the Committee of Ministers also "agrees to examine the follow-up given by member States to this Recommendation five years after its adoption".

This means that the Recommendation will have to be reviewed by the Committee of Ministers in 2022 (after 5 full years of implementation).

In this perspective, a review of the implementation of the Recommendation could be prepared in 2021 under the authority of the Joint Council on Youth, including:

- Measures undertaken by the member States and, where possible, results achieved;
- Projects and initiatives by youth organisations;
- Plans or projects carried out by or with local authorities;
- An analysis of existing legal and practical barriers to the freedom of association of young people in member States (in relation to paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Recommendation).

If appropriate, the Youth Department could support member States by making available tools and indicators for reporting progress and by "co-piloting" studies in 3 member States.

This review process could also include, if relevant, a meeting involving youth work practitioners, local authorities and young people.